

**CITY OF WEST RICHLAND  
RESOLUTION NO. 57-21**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON,  
ADOPTING THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND 2022 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of West Richland wishes to outline and articulate its primary policies, projects, and programs to emphasize during the upcoming 2022 Washington State Legislative Session in order to focus the resources of the Council and City Staff; and

**WHEREAS**, the attached Legislative Priorities; document represents the City's top legislative priorities, compiled with input from department directors, the Association of Washington Cities, and elected officials.

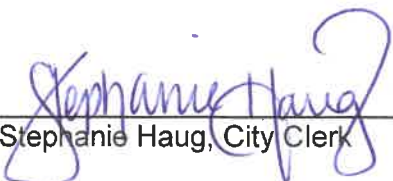
**NOW, THEREFORE**, The City Council of the City of West Richland, Washington, does hereby adopted the attached 2022 City of West Richland Legislative Priorities document.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the establishment of these legislative priorities does not limit the City's advocacy in support or opposition to legislation that conforms to the positions the City has taken in the past or new positions to be taken on matters of importance to the City.

**PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND,  
WASHINGTON**, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of December 2021.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brent Gerry, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephanie Haug, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bronson Brown, City Attorney



The following items are the top priority legislative objectives of the City of West Richland.

### General Principles

West Richland supports legislation that promotes the City Council's Strategic Focus Areas and protects the City's ability to provide excellent municipal services to its citizens.

West Richland believes the best governmental decisions are those made at the local level; closest to the people. Cities have the will, ability and authority to provide for the safety and welfare of their residents. The legislature must abstain from restricting, mandating, or otherwise interfering with local decisions. West Richland opposes legislation that would either preempt authority or discretion that is traditionally and historically vested with local governments, or which would impose new or additional unfunded mandates upon local jurisdictions.

The City of West Richland seeks to work with the Legislature to strengthen the state and local government partnership and protect current revenue sources available to the City, provide new revenue options and to provide flexibility in the use of existing revenues.

### Transportation

The Red Mountain area is forecasted to see continued growth in the coming years. Recent analysis of current and future traffic has identified needed improvements to the SR 224 corridor. This proposal would add capacity and improve traffic operations on SR 224. These proposed improvements, along with the planned local investments, will provide the infrastructure needed to address future multimodal access and capacity needs and ensure residential, commercial, and industrial growth continues in the Red Mountain area. The City of West Richland recently contributed \$541,000 to increase the funding for the design, environmental permitting, and right-of-way work. Retaining the \$24.5M Connecting Washington Transportation Funding for the 2023-2025 biennium is critical to this project.

### Public Safety

The City supports local control over city law enforcement policy decisions to meet the needs of each community. The City also supports the statewide policing reforms listed in the Association of Washington Cities' 2021 Legislative Priorities and additional funding for the Basic Law Enforcement Academy.

### Water & Sewer Infrastructure

The City is in need of an additional potable water source to meet current and projected municipal water system demands through 2038. The Well #10 Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Project in partnership with the Department of Ecology allows West Richland to meet this demand in an environmentally friendly and sustainable manner. The City has successfully secured nearly \$2M in project funding since 2017 and is seeking to secure the final \$2.7M needed in the State's 2023- 2025 biennium budget to complete the ASR project.

The City is in the early stages of a multi-year effort to expand its wastewater treatment facility from 1.5 mgd to 3.0 mgd to meet the projected sewer system demands for the next 20 years in a reliable, environmentally friendly and sustainable manner. These improvements are estimated to cost nearly \$40M over 4 years. A verbal commitment to pay nearly 50% of the total cost for the improvements has been made through a public/private partnership for the 7,000 acre Master Planned Lewis and Clark Ranch. To help reduce the financial burden to the existing residents and businesses, the City requests the State invest \$20M into the project in the 2023-2025 biennium budget.

### Sales Tax for Public Facilities in Rural Counties

The City joins the Association of Washington Cities in encouraging the State to reinvigorate the Local Revitalization Fund (LFR) and/or establish a tax increment financing program similar to other states. If authorized, West Richland would use these tools to spur economic development. The City also fully supports extending the 0.09 sales tax credit for rural economic development. The City in partnership with Benton County has been successful in leveraging these funds, Benton County Rural County Capital Funds, to complete roadway improvements, water and sewer extensions to underserved commercial and industrially zoned property that has resulted in significant private investment, creation of family-wage jobs and increased retail sales tax for West Richland.

### Property Tax

The City supports the revision of the property tax cap to tie it to inflation and population growth factors so that local elected officials can adjust the local property tax rate to better serve their communities.